# Nicholas and Catharine Weininger

Immigrant Pioneers of Pennsylvania and Virginia

Jeffrey R Jones

*Snoqualmie, Washington*
*https://legacypaths.org*

Nicholas and Catharine Weininger
Immigrant Pioneers of Pennsylvania and Virginia

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This brief biography and research summary of Nicholas and Catharine Weininger serves as a stand-alone resource for genealogists and family researchers and will appear as part of future works on the Weininger/Winegar/Wininger family.

*Snoqualmie, Washington*
*https://legacypaths.org*

Also by Jeffrey R Jones

***Huston Pioneers Series***

Samuel Huston and Esther Waugh, Pioneers of Columbiana County, Ohio

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No work like this is accomplished alone. It stands upon a foundation laid by all who have devoted time to researching any aspect of the Winegar and allied families, and who have so generously shared their findings – whether in published books, online forums, or family trees. My heartfelt thanks go out to each one of you.

I owe a special word of thanks to my cousin, Deborah (Gregory) Silveira, whose interest in our family history began as far back as 1975, when she completed a genealogy project as part of the first graduating class of Pike Central High School. As the oldest grandchild, she was entrusted with family stories passed down by Aunt Mary, Goldie, and other elders during yearly visits to local cemeteries for Decoration Day.

She spent summers visiting the family elders in French Lick, West Baden, and Shoals, where they had lived for many generations. By the 1980s, she had traced our line back to John Winegar, Revolutionary War veteran, and successfully enrolled him in the DAR. Her early research, including her book *Genealogy of the Descendants & Allied Branches of John A. Winegar* and contributions to *The Winegar Tree*, laid a strong foundation for many of us who followed.

I must also express my deep appreciation for the many volunteers – past and present – who have worked tirelessly to preserve and digitize historical records. Their remarkable efforts, and the extraordinary tools they have built, made it possible to access documents across time and distance. Without their contributions, this kind of research would be far more difficult, if not impossible.

To all who care about preserving the stories of ordinary families with extraordinary lives: thank you.

# INTRODUCTION

My interest in Wininger history has always been personal. Nicholas and Catharine Weininger are not just names in the past – they are my 7th great-grandparents. Through two of their sons, I descend twice: once through Andrew, my 6th great-grandfather, and again through John, my 5th great-grandfather. In fact, both my paternal grandmother and grandfather were descended from Winingers that were pioneers who moved from Hawkins County, Tennessee, to Southern Indiana in the early 19th century.

Growing up, many of the voices I heard around the holiday table belonged to my grandmother's brothers and sister – my great-uncles and great-aunts – Herbie and Charles, Lloyd and Floyd, Jim Bud, Birt and Aunt Mary – all of them Winingers. They were part of the rhythm of my childhood. They worked with my dad, they took me hunting, they taught me the finer points of Euchre, and their presence left a lasting imprint.

This project is a continuation of the work started by my first cousin, Deborah (Gregory) Silveira – or Debby, as I've always known her. Her interest in genealogy took root in high school, and by the 1980s she had already traced our family back to Revolutionary War veteran John Winegar and enrolled him in the DAR. Over the years, she built connections across generations, gathered oral history from our elders, and visited the cemeteries and homesteads where our ancestors lived. Her early contributions to *The Winegar Tree* newsletter and her own published work helped preserve this lineage and inspired others to carry it forward. Partly because of her efforts, I spent my early research years focused on other lines – the Hustons, the Waughs – but I always knew I'd return to the Winingers.

What follows is a brief but well-documented account of Nicholas and Catharine's lives and movements, pieced together from passenger lists, tax records, church registers, militia rolls, and earlier genealogical works. While much of this content will appear in future books about Andrew, John, and their brother William, I felt that the story of Nicholas and Catharine deserved to be shared on its own. Their journey from Germany to Pennsylvania, and eventually to Virginia, mirrors that of many 18th-century immigrant families – shaped by hardship, resilience, and hope for a better life.

This is a living document. As new records are discovered and old assumptions are re-examined, I expect future editions to grow and improve. For now, it stands as a tribute to Nicholas and Catharine – the founders of a large and enduring American family.

If you have downloaded this book and are possibly a Winegar cousin, please reach out and introduce yourself to me via email at jrj.research@outlook.com.

# NICHOLAS AND CATHARINE WEININGER

Nicholas and Catharine "Catrina" Weininger likely grew up in the Palatinate (Pfalz) region of southwestern Germany, or possibly neighboring areas such as Hesse or Württemberg. Though agriculturally rich, this part of the Holy Roman Empire had endured decades of instability and hardship.

The devastation of the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) was followed by further destruction during the Nine Years' War (1688–1697) and economic stagnation through the early 1700s. Heavy taxation, land scarcity due to partible inheritance, and periodic religious tensions – especially for Protestants living under Catholic rulers – left many families with little hope for advancement. By the 1730s and 1740s, these long-standing pressures pushed thousands of German-speaking families to consider emigration.

Catharine was born in March of 1721[i], and Nicholas was likely a few years older[1].

Nicholas and Catrina Weininger were likely married in either 1738[2], based on later records stating they had been married for 50 years. The couple went on to have twelve children – five sons and seven daughters. Not all their names are known, but several are supported by surviving records:

- Andara "Andrew" Winegar (Abt. 1745 Germany – Bef. Sep 1828 Hawkins Co, TN)
- Josannes "John" Winegar (Bet. 1741-1750 Germany – 3 Oct 1835 Orange Co, IN)
- Anna Margaretha "Margaret" (Weininger) Link (Sep 1757 Berks Co, PA – Aft. 1816 Augusta Co, VA)
- Johan Wilhelm "William" Winegar (Bef. 1761 PA – 1817 Rockbridge Co, VA)
- Nicholas Weininger (Bef. 1761 PA – Bef. 1794)
- David Weininger (Bef. 1762 PA – Bef. 1794)
- six unknown daughters

With at least one son and probably a few young daughters, the couple faced a difficult choice. For families like the Weiningers, the promise of land, religious freedom, and economic opportunity in America – particularly in Pennsylvania – offered a powerful incentive to uproot their lives and embark on a perilous journey.

[1] An estimate of 1716 is used for purposes of estimating his age during the Revolution.
[2] See Catrin's death record for details on the uncertainty.

# Journey to the New World

To begin that journey, the Weiningers would have traveled down the Rhine River, likely by small riverboat, passing through dozens of toll stations and facing delays and fees at every principal crossing. The goal was Rotterdam, the primary departure port for German-speaking emigrants to the American colonies. That leg alone could take several weeks, especially with young children and the uncertainties of river travel. In mid-1750, they boarded the ship *Priscilla*, which carried over a hundred German passengers bound for Philadelphia. Most passengers on these ships paid by signing contracts as "redemptioners", pledging to work off their fares through indentured service upon arrival. A family of five – two parents and three small children – might owe 30 to 40 florins, a sum few could pay upfront.

The transatlantic voyage aboard the *Priscilla* lasted about 75 days. Conditions were extremely difficult. Passengers were packed tightly into the ship's lower decks with minimal sanitation, little light or ventilation, and limited rations of salted meat, hard bread, and water. Outbreaks of dysentery, typhus, and scurvy were common. Infant and child mortality rates were tragically high. The Weiningers survived, arriving in September 1750 and disembarking into the unfamiliar streets of colonial Philadelphia – an important entry point for the German migration into Pennsylvania[ii].

Like other male passengers over the age of sixteen, Nicholas Weininger would have been required to appear before provincial authorities shortly after arrival to swear the "usual oaths". These included an oath of allegiance to the British Crown, a declaration of fidelity to the laws of Pennsylvania, and an oath of abjuration renouncing allegiance to the Pope and any foreign rulers. Though this did not grant full citizenship, it allowed immigrants to legally reside, purchase land, and enjoy limited protections under colonial law.

# Settling in Pennsylvania

Rather than pushing westward immediately, the Weiningers settled in what would later become Windsor Township in Berks County, a region heavily settled by Germans. At the time, this area was still part of Philadelphia County; Berks County was not officially formed until 1752, when it was carved out to better administer the growing frontier population.

Nicholas formally took the oath of allegiance in 1765, confirming his intent to remain and build a life in the colony. He did so alongside neighbor Clementz Dunkelberger, who had also emigrated from Germany. Both men appear on the same oath roll, affirming their status as permanent residents eligible to own land and vote under colonial law[iii]. In time, Nicholas's son Andrew Weininger would marry Clementz Dunkelberger's daughter, Catherine, binding the families together by marriage as well as geography and faith.

This community in Windsor Township became a stronghold of German Reformed and Lutheran settlers, sustained by shared customs, language, and religious life. Records show the Weiningers stayed in the County of Berks until at least 1768[iv], yet by the early 1770s, the Weiningers would begin a new chapter, joining many Pennsylvania Germans who migrated south into the fertile lands of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Their story –

rooted in hardship and hope – reflects the broader patterns of German-speaking families who transformed the early American backcountry.

# Westward Migration

By the 1760s, land in southeastern Pennsylvania had become crowded and increasingly expensive, especially in settled areas like Berks County. German families who had immigrated in the mid-1700s often found that opportunities for their adult children to acquire good farmland nearby were limited. In contrast, Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and surrounding areas – including Augusta County – offered affordable, fertile land and were actively promoted to German and Scotch-Irish settlers. The region had already begun to fill with Lutheran and Reformed communities, offering cultural and religious familiarity.

The Weiningers also may have had personal ties that influenced the move. Their son Andrew Weininger married Catherine Dunkelberger, the daughter of their neighbor Clementz Dunkelberger. If the younger generation began scouting land or relocating, it's plausible the parents followed.

The most probable window for the Weiningers' relocation from Berks County, Pennsylvania, to Augusta County, Virginia, falls between 1769 and 1774, with the early 1770s being especially likely. By the late 1760s, many German families were leaving southeastern Pennsylvania due to increasing population pressure, higher land prices, and colonial taxes. The Shenandoah Valley and Augusta County offered fertile land, fewer taxes, and a growing German-speaking community.

Son Andrew is named in a court case in 1774[v], so we know that he was in Augusta County by then. It is unlikely the family moved after 1775, as the outbreak of the Revolutionary War made long-distance migration riskier and less practical. A move during the early 1770s would have given the Weiningers time to settle and integrate before wartime disruptions began.

# Augusta County, Virginia

Nicholas and Catrin Weininger lived in Augusta County, Virginia, for their remaining years. Church records show they became part of the congregation at St. John's Union Church, a shared German Reformed and Lutheran church founded around 1745–1750 in the Shenandoah Valley.

By 1776, Nicholas would have been about sixty years old and Catrina would have been about fifty-five. Nicholas would have been outside the age range for men to serve in the militia, but their sons served, as shown in military records.

In 1777, John Winegar is a tithable (no land) in Captain Buchanan's Company[vi], Andrew Winegar is a tithable (no land) in Captain Long's Company[vii], while William Winegar (100 acres) and Nicholas Winegar (no land) are tithables listed under a combined listing for Captains John Cunningham, Samuel McCutchons and James Tates Companies[viii].

John Winegar served under Captain William Crogham's Company of the Eighth Virginia in 1777[ix]. He later appears as a private in the light infantry under Captain Cunningham's Company in September 1778[x], and then again under Crogham in October[xi].

David Winegar is listed on a 1779 militia delinquents list[xii], noted as "David Winegar, gone to army," implying he had left to join the continental Army rather than only serve in the local militia. John Winegar was also on Capt. Cunningham's delinquents list in 1779[xiii].

In 1780, John Winegar provided a hundred weight of "good flour" for the use of the revolutionary army[xiv]. That same year, William was a baptism sponsor for his namesake nephew, Johan Wilhelm Lindt/Link[xv], and Andrew Winegar moved south the North Carolina frontier and claimed land in what would later become Hawkins County, Tennessee[xvi].

In 1781, John and Nicholas (likely the younger) are on William McPheeter's list of tithables[xvii].

Sons John and William continue to appear in military records through the end of the Revolutionary War and beyond. They were tithable residents in 1783[xviii], 1784[xix], 1785[xx] and 1786[xxi] in Augusta County.

In 1786, Nicholas and Catharine Weininger are baptism sponsors for their grandson, Johannes Lindt/Link[xxii].

Around June of 1788, Nicholas Weininger the German immigrant, passed away. His wife Catrin lived another five years and died on 22 Jan 1794[xxiii]. At the time of her death, the church record indicates that 3 of her 5 sons were still alive and 6 of her 7 daughters.

# John, Andrew and William

Before Nicholas and Catharine passed away, all three of their living sons had sought new land and opportunity further south and west.

On January 19, 1780, Andrew Winegar claimed 203 acres of land in what was then Sullivan County, North Carolina, located on the north side of Holston Valley[xxiv] in Carters Valley[xxv], where he established a plantation. Later that year, he expanded his holdings by claiming an adjacent 100 acres[xxvi], forming the core of the property where he and his family would live for the remainder of his life.

Tax records indicate that John and Catherine Winegar moved to Rockbridge County around 1787[xxvii],and was then on the tax rolls through 1804[xxviii], when he and Catherine sold their land and moved onto 200 acres of land near his brother Andrew in Hawkins County, Tennessee, that they bought from Walter Beatty[xxix]. In the mid-1830s, they moved along with several of their children, to settle in Orange County, Indiana, where they lived the rest of their lives.

Records confirm that William Winegar and his wife Catharine also moved to Rockbridge County, Virginia, where he was first taxed in 1788[xxx]. William stayed in Rockbridge and while several of his children moved to seek opportunities in Ohio, his youngest son Moses continued to reside in Rockbridge County after William passed away in 1817.

Subsequent books will drill deeper into the lives of each of these men and their descendants.

# RECORDS AND RESEARCH

## Literature Review

In her 1967 book, *Genealogy of the Wininger family in America*, Mercedes Bowen identified several Winingers including Nicholas[xxxi], who immigrated to the new world, name Jacob as Nicholas' brother who arrived in 1753, an older brother John who arrived in 1735 and another brother named Christian who arrived in 1747. She also points out other records of Winingers in the colonies and speculates on relationships.

THREE YEARS AFTER NICOLAUS ARRIVED IN AMERICA, HIS BROTHER, JACOB SAILED FROM THE SAME PORT, ROTTERDAM, HOLLAND, - LAST FROM PORTSMOUTH, ON THE SHIP "EASTERN BRANCH" COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN JAMES NEVIN, AND LANDED IN PHILADELPHIA ON 3 OCTOBER 1753.
THIS IS A COPY OF HIS NAME SIGNED ON THE SHIP'S LOG.

Jacob Wininger

JOHN WININGER CAME TO AMERICA IN 1735, SO HE WOULD HAVE BEEN AN OLDER BROTHER. THE BROTHERS HAD ANOTHER BROTHER WHO CAME TO AMERICA IN 1747 BY THE NAME OF CHRISTIAN. JOHN AND NICOLAUS WERE BOTH TITHABLES IN AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA IN 1781. NICOLAUS WAS LIVING IN LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIS ON 23 SEPTEMBER 1761. CHRISTIAN HAD ONE KNOWN DAUGHTER NAMED CATY (PROBABLY CATHERINE). SHE MARRIED MARTIN GRANBY ON 22 MARCH 1820 IN BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA. THERE WAS ALSO A DAVID WININGER WHO MARRIED SULKY STONER OR STOVER, ON 4 OCTOBER 1820, IN BOTETOURT COUNTY. HE COULD HAVE BEEN THE SON OF CHRISTIAN ALSO. THEN THERE WAS A NICOLAUS WININGER (VINEYARD) WHO MARRIED MARGARET SHRASHER ON 25 NOVEMBER 1816, IN BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA. THIS COULD HAVE BEEN CHRISTIAN'S SON OR IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A GRANDSON OF OUR NICOLAUS. SOMEDAY, I HOPE TO MAKE A TRIP BACK EAST AND SEARCH THE RECORDS FOR OUR FAMILIES. WHEN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON OUR FAMILIES, I WILL SEND OUT SUPPLEMENT PAGES WITH THE INFORMATION TO ALL WHO BOUGHT A BOOK.

Research and analysis of some of these records in below sections, along with other records, helps clarify some of the areas of speculation by Bowen.

Maxine Davis and Olive Steele published a 1984 article in volume 7 of *The Winegar Tree*[xxxii], noting that Nicklaus Weininger settled in Lancaster, Pennsylvania[3]. Davis and Steel also found a very valuable source compiled by Peggy S. Joyner, *St. John's church register: German Reformed and Lutheran, Augusta County, Virginia: (1748) 1786-1872*, and referenced a death entry for Catrin Weininger (see 1794 Death Record of Catrina Weininger below, page 24).

24. NICHOLAS WEININGER b. 1725 in Germany. Immigrated to Philadelphia 12 Sept 1750 on ship Priscilla with Capt. William Wilson from Rotterdam and Cowes and 210 persons aboard (according to list 156 in Strassburger), also (Books on German Immigrants Vol. 1, pp 44-3). Settled in Lancaster PA, then went to Augusta Co. VA. Married Catrin _____ about 1739 as records show she was married to him 50 years. There were five sons and seven daughters; nine (3 sons and 6 daughters) were still alive in 1794.

1) John Alexander Weininger b. about 1750 in VA; d. 1820-25.
2) Andrew b. in 1750's; d. 30 March 1832; m. Catrin _____.
3) Some feel there was a Nicholas Jr. (Above information furnished by Alice Wineinger, R. 1, Haddam KS to Letitia Strawbridge, Kentucky. Information was from St. John's Registras, Augusta Co. VA. Register dates 1779-1872, Weininger _____).
4) William served during the Revolutionary War with brother John Alexander.

25. CATRIN _____, b. 7 March 1721; d. 22 Jan 1794; married to Nicholas Weininger fifty years. She lived as a widow 5 years, 7 months. She was 72 years, 10 months,, 15 days old when she died. (According to St. John's Registras, Augusta Co. VA.

This source helps establish birth and death dates for Catharine as well as death date for Nicholas and more key information about their family.

[3] Davis and Steele did not provide a source but were likely referencing information from Bowen.

In 1988, Deborah (Gregory) Silveira[4] published *Genealogy of the descendants & allied branches of John A. Winegar, Revolutionary War soldier: Winegar*[xxxiii], bringing together many records and shared research establishing the Winingers in Southern Indiana as descendants of John Winegar, a soldier in the Revolution.

In 2003, Robert and Harold Casey published *Wininger Family History: Descendants of David Wininger (born 1768) and Martha (Potter) Wininger of Scott County, Virginia*, a comprehensive book reflecting the latest Wininger research at the time, including a section on Nicholas Weininger as the progenitor of the Wininger families in Scott County, Virginia, and Hawkins County, Tennessee.

In parallel with these books, *The Winegar Tree* newsletter served as an important grassroots venue for sharing and preserving family history. First published in January 1978 and continuing through the end of 1988, this quarterly periodical collected and circulated contributions from Winegar descendants across the United States. While a significant portion of its content focused on the descendants of Ulrick Winegar of New York, it also featured research, correspondence, and speculative charts related to other lines, including that of Nicholas and Catharine Weininger of Pennsylvania and Virginia. With input from a wide network of cousins before the rise of online genealogy, the newsletter captured both the spirit and challenges of collaborative family research in the late 20th century. Though not always fully sourced by modern standards, *The Winegar Tree* remains a valuable archive of family memory and inquiry, reflecting the diversity of perspectives and the persistent effort to trace and connect the branches of the extended Winegar family. References to articles from The Winegar Tree are cited in this work and readers can find links to download electronic copies of individual volumes on The Winegar Tree catalog page on FamilySearch[xxxiv].

# The Many Correct Spellings of Winegar

For my grandmother and her brothers and sisters, the family name was spelled Wininger. That's the name I grew up hearing and seeing on family documents and at holiday gatherings. But like many immigrant surnames, the spelling of Wininger has varied significantly over the centuries – shaped by changing languages, regional accents, handwriting legibility, and the whims of clerks, census takers, and record keepers.

In the earliest German church records, including those from St. John's Church in Augusta County, Virginia, the name appears as Weininger, which is consistent with German spelling and pronunciation. In the mid-1700s, when Nicholas and Catharine first arrived in Pennsylvania, that spelling reflected their heritage and likely how they would have written it themselves.

By the time the family had migrated to Scott County, Virginia, and Hawkins County, Tennessee, the name appears fairly consistently as Wineger in land records, tax rolls, and church documents. Later, as some descendants moved into Southern Indiana, the name evolved again – with some branches adopting Wineinger and others settling on Wininger, often within the same extended family. Yet other Wininger cousins adopted Wyninger or

[4] Deborah is the author's first cousin.

Winniger. These changes often reflected regional speech patterns or personal preference, and over time, the spelling choices solidified from generation to generation.

In my view, all of the spellings are correct.

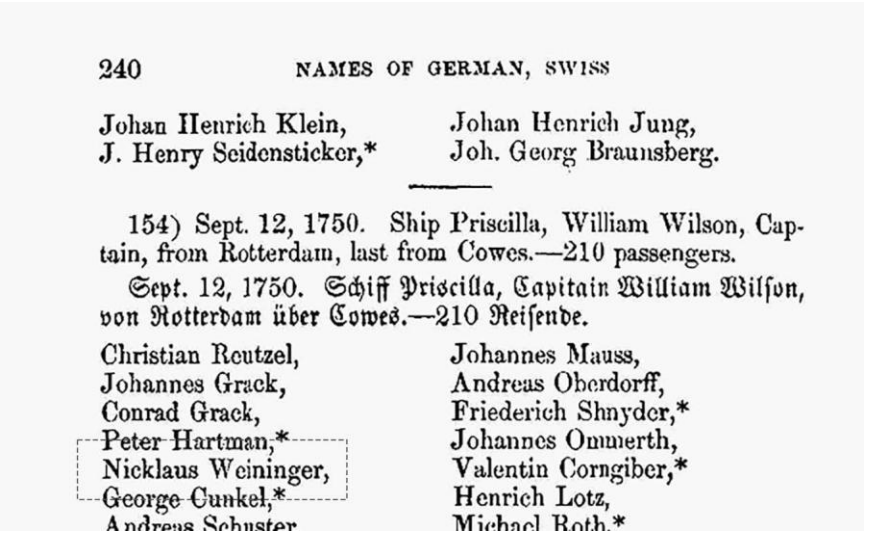
Throughout my Wininger publications, you'll encounter many versions of the name: Winegar, Wineger, Wininger, Weininger, Wineinger, Wyninger, and even Winiger, Winigar, Winnegar, Wynegar – all found in official records tied to this extended family. I have tried to use the spelling that an individual most used during their lifetime, or that their children consistently applied in records after their death. In some cases, I may vary the spelling for the same person, especially when directly quoting or describing historical documents. This reflects not confusion, but rather the historical reality that spelling – especially of surnames – was fluid, informal, and rarely standardized before the 20th century.

If you find yourself wondering whether two similar-looking names refer to the same family – they probably do.

# 1750 Immigration on Ship Priscilla

Out of the many options for Nicholas' immigration, one of the strongest is the Nicklaus Weininger that arrived on 12 Sep 1750 on the Ship Priscilla from Rotterdam under the leadership of Captain William Wilson.

The surname spelling of "Weininger" matches that used in Berks, Pennsylvania, and later in Augusta County, Virginia, and this person also uses the first name of Nicholas as shown in *Namen von Einwanderern in Pennsylvanien aus Deutschland, der Schweiz, Holland, Frankreich u. a. St. von 1727 bis 1776*[xxxv].



240 NAMES OF GERMAN, SWISS

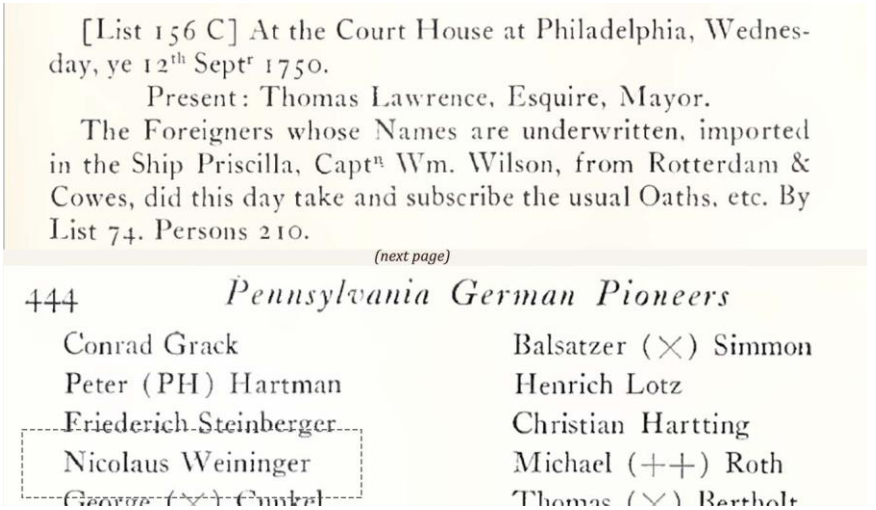
Johan Henrich Klein, Johan Henrich Jung,
J. Henry Seidensticker,* Joh. Georg Braunsberg.

154) Sept. 12, 1750. Ship Priscilla, William Wilson, Captain, from Rotterdam, last from Cowes.—210 passengers.

Sept. 12, 1750. Schiff Priscilla, Capitain William Wilson, von Rotterdam über Cowes.—210 Reisende.

Christian Reutzel, Johannes Mauss,
Johannes Grack, Andreas Oberdorff,
Conrad Grack, Friederich Shnyder,*
Peter Hartman,* Johannes Ommerth,
Nicklaus Weininger, Valentin Corngiber,*
George Gunkel,* Henrich Lotz,
Andreas Schuster Michael Roth,*

This same information has also been recorded in Pennsylvania German Pioneers[xxxvi].



[List 156 C] At the Court House at Philadelphia, Wednesday, ye 12th Septr 1750.

Present: Thomas Lawrence, Esquire, Mayor.

The Foreigners whose Names are underwritten, imported in the Ship Priscilla, Captn Wm. Wilson, from Rotterdam & Cowes, did this day take and subscribe the usual Oaths, etc. By List 74. Persons 210.

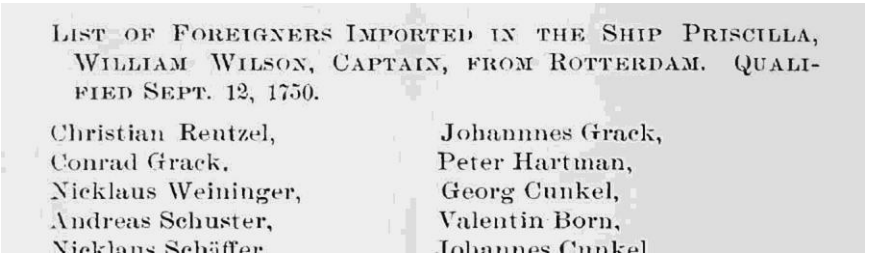
(next page)

444 *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*

Conrad Grack
Peter (PH) Hartman
Friederich Steinberger
Nicolaus Weininger
George (X) Cunkel

Balsatzer (X) Simmon
Henrich Lotz
Christian Hartting
Michael (++) Roth
Thomas (X) Berthelt

Another book, *Names of foreigners who took the oath of allegiance to the province and state of Pennsylvania, 1727-1775*, connects the names of those that took the oath (see below) in Pennsylvania to their immigration and the one listed Weininger, "Nicklaus Weininger," is identified as the one that arrived on Ship Priscilla in 1750[xxxvii].



LIST OF FOREIGNERS IMPORTED IN THE SHIP PRISCILLA, WILLIAM WILSON, CAPTAIN, FROM ROTTERDAM. QUALIFIED SEPT. 12, 1750.

Christian Rentzel,
Conrad Grack,
Nicklaus Weininger,
Andreas Schuster,
Nicklaus Schäffer

Johannnes Grack,
Peter Hartman,
Georg Cunkel,
Valentin Born,
Johannes Cunkel

To complete their arrival and entry into colonial society, passengers like Nicklaus Weininger were required to take a series of formal oaths upon disembarking. These "usual oaths," as noted in the *Pennsylvania German Pioneers* record, included the Oath of Allegiance to the British Crown, the Oath of Abjuration rejecting the authority of the Pope, and a Declaration of Fidelity to the laws and governance of the Province of Pennsylvania. These oaths were administered in Philadelphia by colonial officials and served both as a mechanism for legal admission and a demonstration of loyalty and conformity. By subscribing to these oaths on 12 September 1750, Nicklaus Weininger was officially accepted as a lawful settler in the British colonies.

The requirement to swear these oaths was part of a broader framework aimed at regulating immigration and integrating Protestant foreigners – especially German-speaking settlers – into the political and religious fabric of colonial Pennsylvania. This act of allegiance was separate from the later, more formal naturalization processes that granted full legal rights, such as land ownership and civil participation. The *Priscilla* list shows that Nicklaus Weininger complied with these initial obligations, setting the stage for his eventual establishment in Berks County and later, naturalization as a British subject.

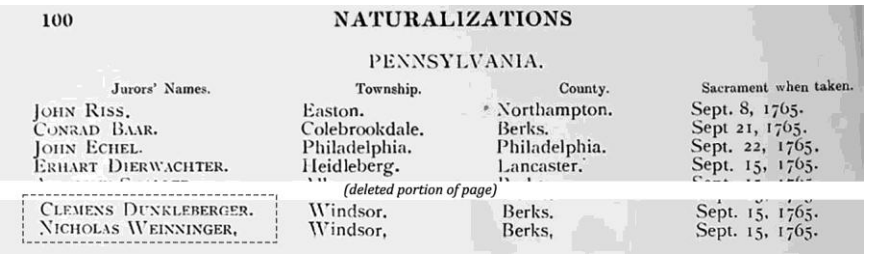
# 1765 Naturalization

In 1740, the British Parliament passed the Naturalization Act of 13 George II, chapter 7 – a landmark statute designed to encourage foreign Protestants to settle in the American and West Indian colonies. This law provided a legal pathway for these immigrants to become naturalized British subjects, granting them the rights and protections of citizenship under the Crown. To qualify, individuals had to meet three primary requirements:

1. Residency – Applicants needed to have resided in a British colony for at least seven years, demonstrating their commitment as long-term settlers rather than transient visitors.
2. Oaths of Loyalty – They were required to swear the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, and later the Oath of Abjuration, affirming loyalty to the British monarch and rejecting the authority of foreign powers, particularly the Pope.
3. Religious Confirmation – Within three months prior to naturalization, they had to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in a Protestant church, publicly confirming their Protestant faith.

In colonial naturalization records – such as those preserved in *Naturalizations of Foreign Protestants in the American and West Indian Colonies* – individuals who completed these steps were often listed under the heading "Juror's Names." In this context, "juror" refers not to a courtroom role but to its older legal meaning: one who has taken an oath.

On 15 September 1765, Nicholas Weininger was recorded as a juror in Windsor Township, County of Berks, Pennsylvania, confirming his compliance with the act and his official recognition as a naturalized British subject[xxxviii]. He had arrived in Pennsylvania in 1750 aboard the *Priscilla*, easily satisfying the residency requirement. The oath was sworn that day, and although specific church membership records from Windsor are not available, later evidence shows his wife was a member of the German Reformed congregation in Augusta County, Virginia, suggesting they were active in a Protestant church at the time of naturalization.



100 NATURALIZATIONS

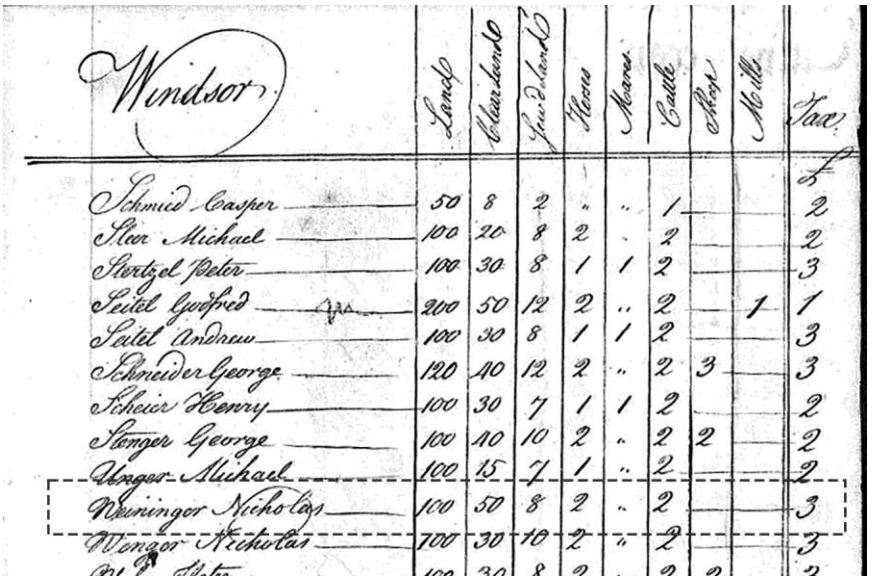
PENNSYLVANIA.

| Jurors' Names. | Township. | County. | Sacrament when taken. |
|---|---|---|---|
| JOHN RISS. | Easton. | Northampton. | Sept. 8, 1765. |
| CONRAD BAAR. | Colebrookdale. | Berks. | Sept 21, 1765. |
| JOHN ECHEL. | Philadelphia. | Philadelphia. | Sept. 22, 1765. |
| ERHART DIERWACHTER. | Heidleberg. | Lancaster. | Sept. 15, 1765. |
| *(deleted portion of page)* | | | |
| CLEMENS DUNKLEBERGER. | Windsor. | Berks. | Sept. 15, 1765. |
| NICHOLAS WEINNINGER. | Windsor, | Berks, | Sept. 15, 1765. |

Immediately following Nicholas's entry in the 1765 record is Clemens Dunkelberger**,** who would later become the father-in-law of Nicholas's son Andrew. Both men took the oath on the same day in the same location, reinforcing their close community ties and strengthening the identification of this Nicholas as the father of Andrew and his brothers.

# 1768 Tax Listing, Windsor Township, County of Berks

The 1768 tax listing for Windsor Township in the County of Berks, Pennsylvania, shows that Nicholas was still living there three years after his oath for naturalization[xxxix]. Note that the entry after him is "Nicholas Wenger," a similar yet distinct surname.



| Windsor | Lands | Cleared Lands | Sowed Lands | Horses | Mares | Cattle | Sheep | Mills | Tax |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Schmied Casper | 50 | 8 | 2 | " | " | 1 | | | 2 |
| Steer Michael | 100 | 20 | 8 | 2 | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Stertzel Peter | 100 | 30 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 3 |
| Seitel Godfred | 200 | 50 | 12 | 2 | " | 2 | | 1 | 1 |
| Seitel Andrew | 100 | 30 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 3 |
| Schneider George | 120 | 10 | 12 | 2 | " | 2 | 3 | | 3 |
| Scheer Henry | 100 | 30 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 2 |
| Stenger George | 100 | 10 | 10 | 2 | " | 2 | 2 | | 2 |
| Unger Michael | 100 | 15 | 7 | 1 | " | 2 | | | 2 |
| Weininger Nicholas | 100 | 50 | 8 | 2 | " | 2 | | | 3 |
| Wenger Nicholas | 100 | 30 | 10 | 2 | " | 2 | | | 3 |

Note that there is also a tax listing on familysearch labeled for the year 1789[xl] that has a similar set of names including Nicholas Weininger. After examining and comparing the images and handwriting with other tax listings near the year of 1789, it is almost certain that the year is incorrect and is likely either 1767 or 1769. The number of tithables was a much longer list by 1789 and the specific names listed align closely to those of 1768.

# The Virginia Militia Act of 1777

The Virginia Militia Act of 1777 was passed during the height of the American Revolutionary War to strengthen the state's defense and mobilize manpower against British forces. As the war escalated, the Virginia General Assembly recognized the need for a more organized and responsive militia system, especially after the earlier reliance on volunteer units proved inconsistent. The act formalized military obligations for a wide swath of the population, ensuring that Virginia could field troops for both local defense and broader Continental efforts.

Under the act, all free male residents aged 16 to 50 were required to enroll in the militia. These men had to regularly muster with their local unit and were expected to provide their own weapons and supplies. The inclusion of boys as young as 16 reflected the urgent need for manpower, while the upper age limit of 50 ensured even older men could be called upon for non-frontline service, such as guarding prisoners or defending home territory.

Beyond the age requirements, the act also laid out the structure of local militia companies and battalions, required periodic training, and granted county officials authority to enforce compliance. Exemptions were made for some professions, including clergymen and public officials. The 1777 act was a key moment in transforming the Virginia militia from an informal system into a more structured and enforceable part of the Revolutionary War effort.

# 1777 Tithable in Augusta County, Virginia

A man named Nicholas Winegar (Weininger) was listed as a tithable in Augusta County in 1777, and again in 1781, but does not appear in the tithable or tax rolls in later years.

The 1777 Augusta County list was compiled under the supervision of militia captains and explicitly governed by Virginia's 1777 Militia Act, which required the enrollment of all free white males aged 18 to 50. The record for Nicholas Weininger shows one tithable and no land, placing the man clearly within this legal age range at the time. That means he must have been born no earlier than 1727 to fall under the cap of age 50.

We know the elder Nicholas Weininger, a German immigrant who arrived in 1750 aboard the Priscilla, was still alive and living in Augusta County in 1777, but he was almost certainly born before 1727. His wife Catherine (Catrina) was born in 1721, and their marriage likely occurred in the late 1730s, suggesting that Nicholas was born in the 1715–1720 range. That would place him well outside the 18–50 bracket and therefore exempt from militia enrollment and tithable status under the law.

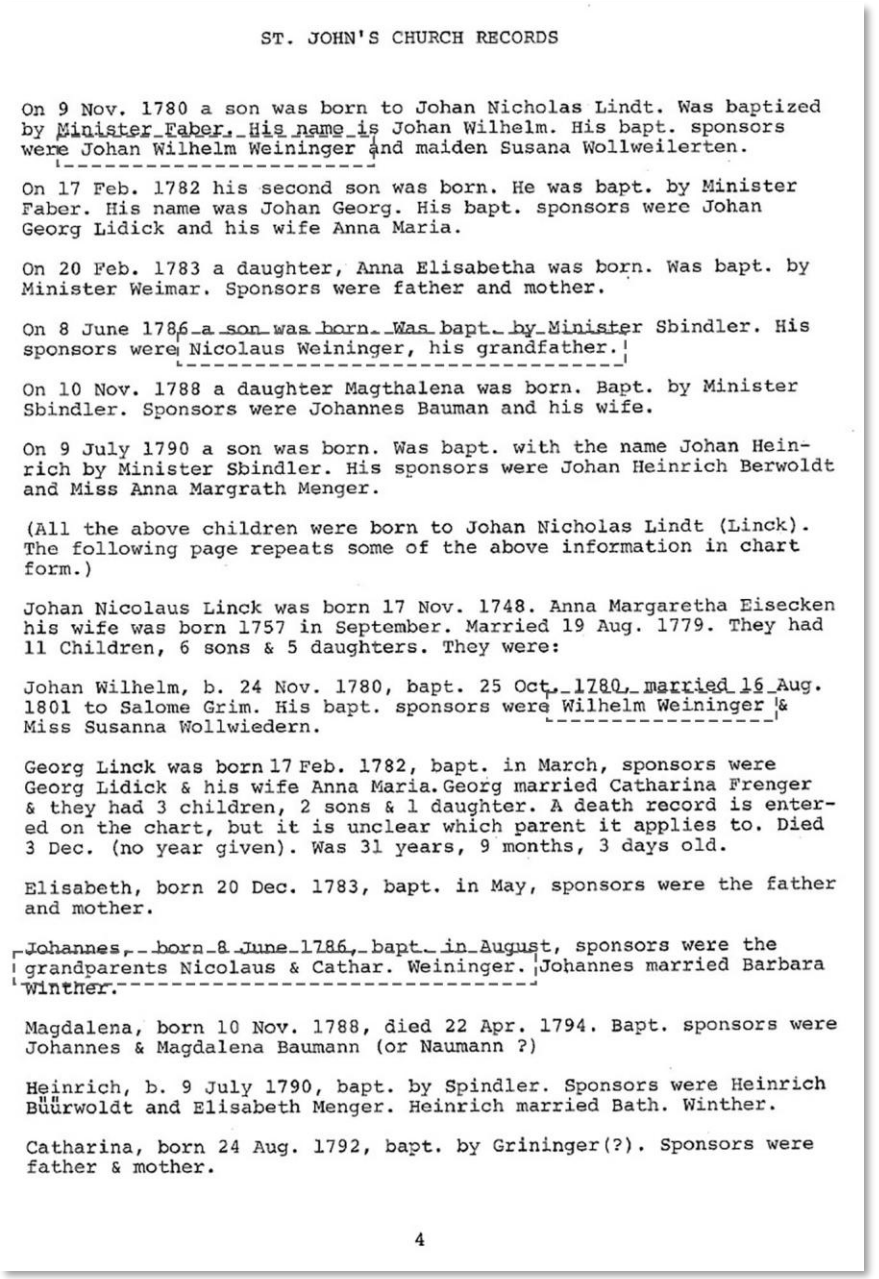
Additionally, the absence of any land ownership associated with the 1777 listing makes it even less likely that the entry refers to the elder Nicholas, who by that time may have acquired or inherited property. Instead, the details fit more naturally with a younger Nicholas Weininger – likely a son of the elder Nicholas.

Assuming the elder Nicholas and Catherine began having children in the early 1740s, a son Nicholas born between 1740 and 1759 would have been between 18 and 37 years old in 1777, squarely within the expected range for tithables. The fact that he appears without land also suggests he had not yet established his own household or may have still been living with family. The appearance in 1781 but not afterward may indicate that he moved, died, or aged out of the tithable age range by 1790.

Taken together, the evidence points to the 1777 and 1781 listings referring to a younger Nicholas Weininger, not the immigrant patriarch. His likely birth year falls between 1740 and 1759, making him a member of the second generation of the family in America.

# 1780-1792 Lindt / Linck Family Church Records

The St. John's Church records from Augusta County, Virginia, confirm the presence of the Weininger family in the congregation by at least November 1780, when *Johan Wilhelm (William) Weininger* served as a baptismal sponsor for *Johan Wilhelm Lindt*, son of *Johan Nicholas Lindt*[xli].



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH RECORDS

On 9 Nov. 1780 a son was born to Johan Nicholas Lindt. Was baptized by Minister Faber. His name is Johan Wilhelm. His bapt. sponsors were Johan Wilhelm Weininger and maiden Susana Wollweilerten.

On 17 Feb. 1782 his second son was born. He was bapt. by Minister Faber. His name was Johan Georg. His bapt. sponsors were Johan Georg Lidick and his wife Anna Maria.

On 20 Feb. 1783 a daughter, Anna Elisabetha was born. Was bapt. by Minister Weimar. Sponsors were father and mother.

On 8 June 1786 a son was born. Was bapt. by Minister Sbindler. His sponsors were Nicolaus Weininger, his grandfather.

On 10 Nov. 1788 a daughter Magthalena was born. Bapt. by Minister Sbindler. Sponsors were Johannes Bauman and his wife.

On 9 July 1790 a son was born. Was bapt. with the name Johan Heinrich by Minister Sbindler. His sponsors were Johan Heinrich Berwoldt and Miss Anna Margrath Menger.

(All the above children were born to Johan Nicholas Lindt (Linck). The following page repeats some of the above information in chart form.)

Johan Nicolaus Linck was born 17 Nov. 1748. Anna Margaretha Eisecken his wife was born 1757 in September. Married 19 Aug. 1779. They had 11 Children, 6 sons & 5 daughters. They were:

Johan Wilhelm, b. 24 Nov. 1780, bapt. 25 Oct. 1780, married 16 Aug. 1801 to Salome Grim. His bapt. sponsors were Wilhelm Weininger & Miss Susanna Wollwiedern.

Georg Linck was born 17 Feb. 1782, bapt. in March, sponsors were Georg Lidick & his wife Anna Maria. Georg married Catharina Frenger & they had 3 children, 2 sons & 1 daughter. A death record is entered on the chart, but it is unclear which parent it applies to. Died 3 Dec. (no year given). Was 31 years, 9 months, 3 days old.

Elisabeth, born 20 Dec. 1783, bapt. in May, sponsors were the father and mother.

Johannes, born 8 June 1786, bapt. in August, sponsors were the grandparents Nicolaus & Cathar. Weininger. Johannes married Barbara Winther.

Magdalena, born 10 Nov. 1788, died 22 Apr. 1794. Bapt. sponsors were Johannes & Magdalena Baumann (or Naumann ?)

Heinrich, b. 9 July 1790, bapt. by Spindler. Sponsors were Heinrich Buurwoldt and Elisabeth Menger. Heinrich married Bath. Winther.

Catharina, born 24 Aug. 1792, bapt. by Grininger(?). Sponsors were father & mother.

4

By June 1786, *Nicolaus Weininger* – the family patriarch – appears as the baptismal sponsor for *Johannes Lindt*, identified specifically as the child's grandfather. This entry, later repeated in the family group summary, further names both *Nicolaus and Catharine Weininger* as the child's grandparents, firmly establishing the family's involvement in church and community life during this period. These entries indicate that multiple generations of the Weininger family were settled in Augusta County and active in the German-speaking church community by the mid-1780s.

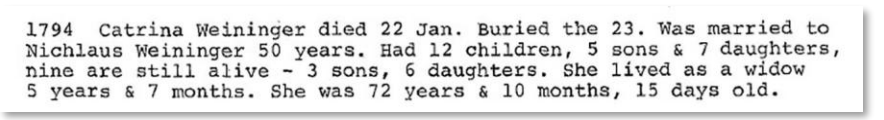
The records strongly support the conclusion that *Johan Nicholas Lindt (also spelled Linck or Link)* married a daughter of Nicolaus and Catharine Weininger. While a family chart at the bottom of the page lists his wife as *Anna Margaretha Eisecken*, this name is not consistent with the direct baptismal entries, which instead show Weiningers serving as sponsors and being identified as the child's grandparents. The most plausible explanation is that *Anna Margaretha Eisecken* is either a transcription error from the original German records or a misidentification that entered the compiled summary. Given that *Johan Wilhelm Weininger* and *Nicolaus Weininger* both served in formal sponsor roles for Lindt's children, and that the 1786 entry explicitly names the grandparents, it is highly likely that *Anna Margaretha*, wife of Johan Nicholas Lindt, was in fact a daughter of Nicolaus and Catharine Weininger.

Johan Nicholas Lindt and his wife Anna Margaretha had at least seven children recorded in these entries: *Johan Wilhelm* (b. 1780), *Georg* (b. 1782), *Anna Elisabetha* (b. 1783), *Johannes* (b. 1786), *Magthalena* (b. 1788), *Johan Heinrich* (b. 1790), and *Catharina* (b. 1792). The repeated naming of Weininger family members as sponsors – particularly for the firstborn son and the 1786 child – provides additional weight to the conclusion that this was a close familial connection, most logically explained by Anna Margaretha being a Weininger by birth.

# 1794 Death Record of Catrina Weininger

St. John's Church Register, German Reformed and Lutheran in Augusta County, Virginia, records the death of Catrina Weininger. There is a lot of information packed into a very short paragraph[xlii]:

- Catrina's death: 22 Jan 1794
- Age at death was 72 years, 10 months and 15 days. This implies a birth date of 7 Mar 1721.
- She had been a widow for 5 years and 7 months, so Nicholas died around June 1788.
- She was married to Nicholas for 50 years. If that counts to his death, they were married in 1738. If it counts to her death, they were married in 1744.
- They had 12 children, 5 sons and 7 daughters, but only 3 sons and 6 daughters were still alive when she died.


1794 Catrina Weininger died 22 Jan. Buried the 23. Was married to Nichlaus Weininger 50 years. Had 12 children, 5 sons & 7 daughters, nine are still alive - 3 sons, 6 daughters. She lived as a widow 5 years & 7 months. She was 72 years & 10 months, 15 days old.

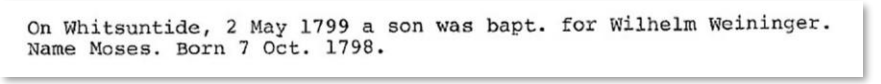
We know from other records that the living sons where Andrew, John Alexander and William Weininger (or Winegar).

# 1799 Baptism of Moses Weininger

An entry on Page 16[xliii] of the *St. John's Church Records* helps confirm a key family identity: that Johan Wilhelm Weininger, who appears in Augusta County church records, is the

same individual as William (Wilhelm) Winegar, son of Nicholas and Catharine Weininger. The name Wilhelm is the German form of William, and the appearance of his son Moses in this 1799 baptism record provides a crucial link to later records in Rockbridge County, where both William and Moses are documented by tax and census entries.

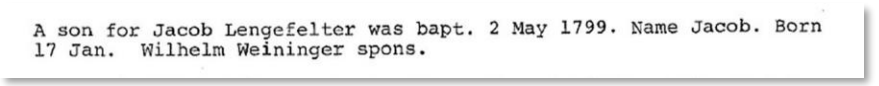
> *"On Whitsuntide, 2 May 1799 a son was bapt. for Wilhelm Weininger. Name Moses. Born 7 Oct. 1798."*


On Whitsuntide, 2 May 1799 a son was bapt. for Wilhelm Weininger.
Name Moses. Born 7 Oct. 1798.

This entry shows that Wilhelm Weininger had a son, Moses, born on 7 October 1798 and baptized at *St. John's Church* on 2 May 1799. While the baptism occurred in Augusta County, tax and census records confirm that William had been living in Rockbridge County since at least 1790 and remained there until his death in 1817. His son Moses Weininger first appears in Rockbridge County tax records in 1817 – the same year William died – and remained in that county for many years thereafter. This alignment of names, dates, and locations confirms that Wilhelm of Augusta and William of Rockbridge are the same man, and that he is indeed the son of Nicholas and Catharine Weininger.

The fact that the baptism took place in Augusta County, despite the family's residence in Rockbridge, suggests that William and his wife Catharine (surname unknown) made a deliberate trip back to St. John's to baptize their son. This likely reflects a strong ongoing connection to the congregation at St. John's – either through family, tradition, or spiritual commitment. That the baptism occurred on Whitsuntide (Pentecost) also implies it may have coincided with a larger church festival or reunion of local families.

> *"A son for Jacob Lengefelter was bapt. 2 May 1799. Name Jacob. Born 17 Jan. Wilhelm Weininger spons."*


A son for Jacob Lengefelter was bapt. 2 May 1799. Name Jacob. Born
17 Jan. Wilhelm Weininger spons.

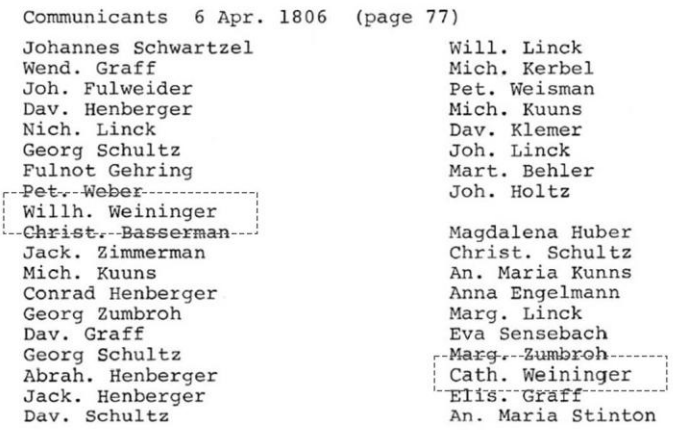
On the same day, Wilhelm Weininger served as baptismal sponsor for the son of Jacob Lengefelter, a role that carried both spiritual and social responsibility. It confirms Wilhelm's active participation in the church community and further supports the idea that this return to Augusta County was a meaningful visit, likely timed to coincide with multiple family or community events.

Together, these entries offer more than a routine baptismal notice – they solidify the identity of William Winegar of Rockbridge County as the Wilhelm Weininger appearing in St. John's records and as Johan Wilhelm, son of Nicholas and Catharine. They also demonstrate the strong ties German-American families like the Winegars maintained across county lines, using religious rites like baptism as opportunities to reinforce family connections and community identity.

# 1806 Communicants, Whilhelm and Catharine Weininger

Page 29[xliv] of the *St. John's Church Records* includes a list of communicants dated 6 April 1806, drawn from the continued entries on page 77. Among the names recorded are "Willh. Weininger" and "Cath. Weininger", confirming that both William (Wilhelm) Weininger and his wife Catharine were present at St. John's and partook of Holy Communion on that date.

This is a significant confirmation of their continued ties to the Augusta County congregation, even though tax and census records show that William had been living in Rockbridge County since at least 1790, and remained there until his death in 1817. Their appearance in this 1806 record suggests that they made a purposeful trip back to St. John's, likely for the sacrament of communion – a rite typically observed only once or twice per year in early German Reformed and Lutheran churches. This would have been a spiritually significant event, especially if no comparable German-speaking congregation or ordained minister was yet available in Rockbridge County at that time.



Communicants 6 Apr. 1806 (page 77)

Johannes Schwartzel
Wend. Graff
Joh. Fulweider
Dav. Henberger
Nich. Linck
Georg Schultz
Fulnot Gehring
~~Pet. Weber~~
Willh. Weininger
~~Christ. Basserman~~
Jack. Zimmerman
Mich. Kuuns
Conrad Henberger
Georg Zumbroh
Dav. Graff
Georg Schultz
Abrah. Henberger
Jack. Henberger
Dav. Schultz

Will. Linck
Mich. Kerbel
Pet. Weisman
Mich. Kuuns
Dav. Klemer
Joh. Linck
Mart. Behler
Joh. Holtz

Magdalena Huber
Christ. Schultz
An. Maria Kunns
Anna Engelmann
Marg. Linck
Eva Sensebach
~~Marg. Zumbroh~~
Cath. Weininger
~~Elis. Graff~~
An. Maria Stinton

29

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[vii] "Image 8; Tithables, 1777, Augusta County, Virginia: Augusta. Tax Records 1777; Film # 007893714," 1777, https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4C-SJPF.
[viii] "Image 25; Tithables, 1777, Augusta County, Virginia: Augusta. Tax Records 1777; Film # 007893714," 1777, https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4C-SJ5K.
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[x] "John Wininger, 'United States, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783,'" September 1778, https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QL65-6B19.
[xi] "John Weninger, 'United States, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783,'" October 1778, https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QL65-L2MG.
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[xiii] "Image 99; John Winegar; Court Martial Records,1756-1796, Augusta Virginia: Augusta. Court Martial Records 1756–1796; Film # 007893729," November 30, 1779, https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4H-8Q5T-6.
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[xviii] "Image 51; Capt. McCutchins and Bells Company; Personal Property Tax Records, 1782-1785, Augusta County, Virginia: Augusta. Personal Property Tax Records 1782–1785; Film # 007846301," April 10, 1783, https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-W3QM-P.

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[xx] "Image 133; Capt Shields & McCutchans Company; Personal Property Tax Records, 1782-1785, Augusta County, Virginia: Augusta. Personal Property Tax Records 1782–1785; Film # 007846301," 1785, https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQF-W33K-K.
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[xxii] Peggy S. Joyner, *St. John's Church Register* (1780).
[xxiii] *Page 14; Catrina Weininger; St. John's Church Register, German Reformed and Lutheran, Augusta County, Virginia (1748), 1786-1872*.
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[xxviii] "Image 478; Personal Property Tax List, 1787-1810, Rockbridge County, Virginia: Rockbridge. Personal Property Tax Records 1787–1810; Film # 007856293," 1804, https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS79-132Z-4.
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